

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as indicated below:

1. (currently amended) In a topper/shredder mechanism for a cane harvester including a rotatable topper/shredder element mounted for rotation about an upright axis, and a cane top gathering arrangement for directing cane tops to said shredder element, the improvement comprising: said topper/shredder element including a center support disposed along said axis; at least two topper/shredder disks spaced from each other along said axis and joined to said center support; each shredder disk having a plurality of cutting blades joined to, and projecting outwardly from, spaced locations about its periphery; and at least one air-assist vane extending between said at least two shredder disks for generating a stream of air for aiding sideways discharge of shredded cane tops from said topper/shredder element shredder.